

Guclu et al.

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**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following paragraph:

[0025] An RF head coil assembly with a coil loader 70 for use with the MRI system 10 is shown in Fig. 2. The RF head coil assembly 70 has an RF coil assembly 72 disposed about a phantom 74. Phantom 74 is positioned in a generally central volume 76 of RF head coil assembly 70. Once phantom 74 is loaded into the RF head coil assembly 70, the RF head coil assembly 70 is positioned within a bore of the MRI system 10 of Fig. 1. An imaging sequence, preferably T1-weighted, is applied to the phantom such that data is acquired from the phantom and an image is generated therefrom. This image provides a technician with the ability to determine if greater contrast can be achieved between the white matter and gray matter mimics of the phantom. If greater contrast is desired, the flip angle is adjusted and the phantom is rescanned. When adequate contrast is established between the white matter and gray matter of the image, the flip angle for the T1-weighted image sequence is considered optimized.